

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday April 9th 2006

New Course Guide

As you may be already aware a small group within the Society has been working for some time on preparing a Course Guide for the Radio Experimenter's Examination. The guide uses a web page presentation on CD ROM and contains a very detailed outline of all of the topics included in the HAREC syllabus on which the multiple-choice examination is based.

The Guide is intended to assist individuals to prepare for the examination or to act as a detailed template for those organising classes. It can also be used as a refresher course for those already licensed. For the first time, the Guide brings together in one source all of the material necessary for the examination including all the Regulations, National, International and CEPT.

At the Committee meeting on Saturday, Paul EI2CA the Society's PRO gave a demonstration of a pre-launch version of the Guide. Users are promised a very impressive, informative and useful package. Clubs have been written to in the last week with a view to commencing, in September, a series of classes for the examination. The course guide will be launched at the AGM and there will be a meeting and demonstration for club representatives at 1315 on the Sunday afternoon prior to the AGM of the Society.

IRTS Shop

The Irish Radio Transmitters Society has reached agreement with the Radio Society of Great Britain to enable IRTS members to avail of the 10 per-cent discount on purchases currently available to RSGB members. To avail of this discount IRTS members should log-on to a new website www.irtsshop.com which is run by RSGB. A link to this site is also available from the IRTS website www.irts.ie

All RSGB products are listed on this website and prices are quoted in Euros. Purchases will normally be made off the website by credit card. IRTS members quoting their callsigns will automatically qualify for a 10 per-cent discount. The introduction of this facility will make it significantly easier for IRTS members to access radio related books and materials and it also introduces a new level of cooperation with our sister society in the U.K.

IRTS AGM 2006

The IRTS AGM, will take place on Sunday April the 23rd at the Vienna Woods Hotel in Cork and is being hosted by Cork Radio Club. The weekend will follow the usual format with a dinner on the Saturday night, a rally on Sunday and the Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday afternoon. The Vienna Woods Hotel is located on the eastern side of Cork City just off the Glanmire roundabout at the city side of Glanmire village.

Limerick Radio Club

Limerick Radio Club normally meet on the second Thursday of each month. Unfortunately, April's LRC meeting which was due to take place on Thursday the 13th of April has had to be cancelled as a result of the venue being unavailable.

Meetings will return to normal for May with the next meeting of Limerick Radio Club taking place on Thursday the 11th of May at 7.30 p.m. in Limerick Institute of Technology.

Shannon Basin Radio Club

The Shannon Basin Radio Club meetings are held in the Royal Hotel Roscommon on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 8.30 p.m.

South Dublin Radio Club

A Special Event will take place over Easter weekend to mark the 1916 90th Anniversary Commemoration. The station will run from the SDR club QTH using the callsign EI90GPO. Activity will be on all HF bands from 80 metres to 10 metres.

Mid Ulster Amateur Radio Club

The Mid Ulster Amateur Radio Club (GI3VFW) will be holding its rally at the Discovery Centre, Oxford Island near Lurgan on Sunday the 21st of May. A new and exciting venue right on the shores of Lough Neagh with a Host of attractions for all the family including boat trips, café, bird hides, nature trails, paddling pool, play area, picnic and barbecue areas. There will be a display by Lough Neagh rescue team and rescue vehicle's on site for viewing. This should prove to be a great day out whether

you want to browse the radio rally enjoy the wild life and scenery our take part in the activities you can be sure of an enjoyable day. Bring your binoculars and camcorders.

The site and rally are wheelchair accessible. For more information, contact John, GI0KUH at "j.p.mccabe at btinternet dot com".

QRP Discussion Group

There is a new email discussion list for QRP in Europe! The EUQRP List. Anyone wishing to join should send a blank email message to:

"euqrp-subscribe at yahoogroups dot com". Everyone is welcome!

HF Conditions

Those of you new to the HF bands and finding DX hard to come by given the sunspot minimum, might be interested in the following; With the Spring equinox just past, LF conditions to the Pacific area in the mornings have been excellent. In particular VK and ZL signals on 40 metres between 07:00 and 08:00 local time have been extremely strong both on CW and SSB. These stations have been much easier to work than on 20 metre band even using simple low dipoles. Check around 7130 on SSB and 7015 on CW.

International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend-2006

This highly popular and ever growing amateur radio event is on again this year from the 19th to the 20th of August.

In 2005 there were 382 lighthouses in 48 countries that registered. This year's event in particular will be dedicated to the memory of its founder and main organiser, Mike Dalrymple GM4SUC, who passed away in December 2005.

The event normally starts at 0001 UTC on the first day of the event and ends at 2359 UTC on the Sunday. This year the event will start at 0002 UTC reserving the first minute in silence as a moment of reflection on Mike's life.

The event is a fun weekend designed to promote amateur radio and lighthouses. It is NOT a contest, so take time to have a chat with the stations contacted and maybe get the public involved as well. On the Sunday the International Association of Lighthouse Keepers will hold their Lighthouse Day opening their lighthouses all

around the world to the public. Last year some stations even had the media present taking film of the event.

Full guidelines, an online entry form and a list of entrants are all on the ILLW web site at illw.net together with contact details if you need further information.

So, come along grab a lighthouse and join in the fun. It's also a great opportunity to increase your DXCC contacts and other lighthouse awards.

International Marconi Day

Saturday the 22nd of April is International Marconi Day. The Cornish Radio Amateur Club organises this special event each year about this time to celebrate Marconi's birth in Bologna on the 25th of April 1874. This is not a contest, but awards are made for working or submitting SWL reports for the special Award Stations, each of which has some historical connection with Marconi.

EI0MAR will be QRV from the Martello Tower in Howth on CW and SSB as an award station. The tower houses a vintage radio museum. So why not pay the station a visit and maybe even do a little bit of operating on Saturday the 22nd? EI0MAR will also be monitoring 145.575 MHz (S23) throughout the day and hopes to be QRV from about 10:00 am local time.

Access to the tower is up a steep pathway almost opposite the Abbey Tavern. More information about the station is available on the EI0MAR site, which has a link from the IRTS web site. Information about the awards and about the award stations is available at www.gb4imd.org.uk

Items for inclusion in next weeks Radio News should be forwarded to Mark Wall, EI7IS at QTHR or by phone to 051-853806 or 087-6302026. Items for the radio news can also be faxed to 087 5 6302026. News should be submitted via e-mail to "news at irts dot ie" for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. Please note that items for the radio news should reach the editor no later than midday on Fridays.

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